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Lions Carnival

80th year of fun and games
Page 3

In Training

Firefighters undergo special exercise
Page 12

Cleaning Up

City council eyes derelict properties
Page 9

Election

City councillor wants regional seat
Page 14

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INPORTNEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 29 VOLUME 14

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

FAMILY REUNION

Celebrating 50 years in Canada

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — In 1960 the Sneeck family landed in Canada by plane and it was a big occasion.

see REUNION | A2

DONATIONS: Hope Furniture Bank wants to help 48 more families furnish their homes



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The Hope Furniture Bank truck was parked in the Westside Arena parking lot, this past Sunday where local residents dropped off gently-used furniture for families in need. Katie Shaughnessy, left, and Peter Miller were loading the van with donated end tables.

Charity helps find new homes for old furniture

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Every piece of furniture meant here for someone starting out in life — or starting out again.

A couple of end tables, an old coffee table and a bed that were no longer being used will go a long way for a woman setting up a new home after an abusive relationship or people who survived a fire but lost all their possessions.

see FURNITURE | A2

See Inside:
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■ REUNION

Family can trace roots to 1700s

FROM PAGE A1

John and Nell Sneek and 13 of their 14 grandchildren immigrated to Canada from Holland and settled in Port Colborne, where the family name still resonates throughout the community.

This past Saturday, about 150 Sneek family members, including Jack, Nick, Ann, Joe, Nell, Paul, Cathy, John, Ronnie, Frank, Marg and Jerry, their spouses, 54 grandchildren and 86 grandchildren gathered at The Mill Greenhouse to celebrate half a century in Canada. Only 34 family members were missing from the celebrations.

Their parents, sister Riet who stayed in Holland, and brother Antoon (Tony) have died.

Photo albums and posters featuring old pictures, including new and old newspaper articles, were on display. The articles from 1960 show the



family walking of the plane and at their new home in Canada wearing their best Sunday clothes.

Frank Sneek, owner of The Mill, said he remembered having the photo taken and not understanding why they were wearing their good Sunday clothes during the week. At age 24, the eldest Jacobus (Jack) was a machinist in St. Catharines and sponsored the family.

When the family first moved to Canada, only the two oldest brothers knew how to speak English.

Children were quickly immersed in Canadian culture and were encouraged to watch television — something they never had in Holland — to learn the English language.

In an interview in the 1960s, the family remarked that more people drove their cars in Canada, whereas in



At left, Jerry Sneek holds one of many posters filled with old family photos that were on display during the Sneek family reunion on Saturday. Above, The Sneek brothers and sisters donned special orange T-shirts and include Jack, Nick, Ann, Joe, Nell, Paul, Cathy, John, Ronnie, Frank, Marg and Jerry, who are pointing to their part on the large family tree.

Holland they rode their bikes. There was more wildlife and the homes were more colourful than in Holland.

Frank had special orange T-shirts made for his brothers and sisters with the order of their birth and even had shirts made in honour of their deceased relatives.

"I'm really pleased with the number of people who did make it," he said, wearing an orange Holland windmill hat and looking at three generations of Sneeks catching up.

Frank and his family wanted to put together a family tree with everybody's date of birth, marriage and death, but the tree would have been too tall.

So the family did a horizontal tree with about 200 names which stretched across a large wall. Thanks to good family records, the Sneeks can trace their ancestry back to the 1700s.

The Sneeks have a family reunion every year, but this year was special because a

cousin and his wife and six other relatives flew in from Holland for the occasion. The family first gathered at St. Theresa's Church for a mass by Father Bill Derousie who has known the family for quite some time.

Some Sneeks still live in Port Colborne while others have moved to Meaford, Markham, Mississauga, Niagara-on-the Lake, St. Catharines and Jordan.

kforan@wellandtribune.ca

■ FURNITURE

Furniture bank can be a great help to families or singles

FROM PAGE A1

This past Sunday, furniture donations were slowly coming in to Westside Area and filling the Hope Furniture Bank during its neighbourhood drop-off day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It was the first drop-off day for Port Colborne and the Hope Furniture Bank's Katie Shaughnessy was pleasantly surprised with the amount of

donated items.

"These drop-off days have been busy and that's good because with 48 additional families, we furnish their living room, kitchen and bedrooms. That's a lot of furniture we need to collect to help 48 families."

Items collected were brought to a warehouse and are stored until a client is referred to Hope Furniture Bank by, among others,

Ontario Works, Family and Children Services, Canadian Mental Health Organization and Port Cares.

Shaughnessy said the furniture bank's services are utilized by seniors who are downsizing or people who have gently-used furniture they no longer need and want to donate, including mattresses, bed frames, tables, chairs, bedding, dressers, couches, love

seats and small kitchen appliances.

Mary Anne Feagan, community developer for the Three-Bridges Niagara Prosperity initiative area on the east side of Port Colborne, sees first hand how much the services can help a family or single person.

"It's very difficult to get furniture, especially when they're victims of fire. Everything has been moved

or a house has been condemned," she said. "Some victims of domestic violence don't have anything and it's not worth going back to their partner's home."

Feagan, who works at the Port Cares Reach Out Centre, also sees how clients can struggle on \$540 monthly Ontario Works social assistance cheques.

"All their money goes toward paying rent and

there's no money for any extras."

A Welland drop-off day will be held at Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School next Sunday, from 1 a.m. to 2 p.m., and all items must be in good condition. Residents who donate items will also receive a tax receipt for fair market value of donated items.

kforan@wellandtribune.ca

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■ LIONS CARNIVAL

Annual carnival offers lots of fun and games



The Port Colborne Lions Club carnival kicked off July 14 with hundreds of children, teens and adults enjoying rides, food and games. The Fire Ball, above, was a popular ride for Lynsey Bird and Kalley Bird (wearing a headband). At right, Hailee Atyeo and friend Lauren Snider go for a ride down the giant slide. Below right, Christine and Ronan Schooley enjoy a ride on a bumblebee.



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photos

KAESHA FORAND InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The food was fresh, the rides were fun and children walked around the Port Colborne Lions Carnival anxious to play games and win a mountain of prizes.

This past Sunday, the 80th annual Lions Carnival wrapped up at 6 p.m., with draws for numerous prizes and a \$1,200 cash prize for the car draw.

Overall carnival chairman Larry Czinege was happy with the turnout. Although he wasn't sure how many people walked through the gates, he anticipated that with the good weather thousands enjoyed the festivities from Wednesday to Sunday. He said Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights were busy with the ride specials and expected a good crowd for Saturday's wrestling show.

Lions and Lionesses were busy serving up fresh-made

french fries and barbecue favourites, selling draw tickets and helping to organize events.

The young and old tried their luck at fair games, such as fishing, water games, games of skill or opted to have their age guessed to win stuffed animals or inflatable prizes. Rides ranged from a fireball that sent riders in circles, leaving them upside-down for a few moments, to a leisurely ride on the Ferris wheel or a buzzing ride on a bumblebee.

And, of course, no carnival would be complete without foot-long corn dogs, cotton candy and the Lions fresh doughnuts.

"It's our second year with the World's Finest and they have excellent rides and people are commenting on how nice the rides are," Czinege said.

New to this year's event was a Friday night fish fry, which Czinege said was a great success. Tickets also sold well for

the popular Lions Club car draw for a Chevrolet Camaro or a Cobalt and \$20,000 cash.

Making the rounds of local carnivals is a family tradition for Leanne Snider, whose uncle was once the president of the Caledonia and Simcoe fair. She brought her daughter Lauren, son Landon and family friend Hailee Atyeo. The Port Colborne family attended the Fair Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday to enjoy rides, sights and sounds.

Lauren said she liked the fun games where she won a frog stuffed animal and an iCarly inflatable guitar. She also enjoyed the rides including the Ferris wheel and slides.

All funds raised throughout the weekend will be donated to local organizations and charities and a portion will also go toward Lions camps including Camp Dorset for Ontarians on kidney dialysis.

kforand@weilandtribune.ca



IMPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News

Osprey Media Publishing Inc.

228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5

Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

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yourview End in sight?

Despite the recent judgment by Ontario Superior Court Judge Joseph Henderson that Vale (formerly Inco) must pay \$36-million to city residents for historic nickel contamination and its effect on the city's property values, the case is far from over.

Vale announced it will be appealing the judgment made in a Welland courtroom. Ken Koyama, vice-president of corporate affairs for Vale, said company staff and lawyers read through the 96-page verdict and found ground for an appeal.

The company has 30 days from the day the judgment was handed down, which was July 6, to file an appeal. Once the appeal is filed, there is work on when it might be heard by the court. The court does reject the appeal, which would most likely mean the company would have to pay out the \$36-million awarded by the judge. The payment breaks down into 500 households being given money and being placed there in three groups. About 200 Broadway St. households would receive \$23,000 each for a total of \$9 million. They live nearest to the former refinery. Households on the east side of Port Colborne would get \$9,000 for a total of \$15 million and the west side \$2,000 per household for \$12 million.

If the court decides to hear an appeal, it could be days, weeks or months before it actually makes it on a court docket. That means no payment and still no end to a case that has been before the courts in one form or another for almost a decade. And the appeal means residents in the city still have no closure on the historic soil contamination issue, despite the wrapping up of the Public Liaison Committee's work over the past decade as well. The committee was established in 2000 to look into the health risks associated with soil contamination caused by 90 years of refining nickel in Port Colborne and it started off with nine members.

All that time took its toll on the committee as only three members — chair Harry Weiss, Vian Moskalyk and Rosemarie Polson — were left in the end.

The committee held 231 meetings — some quite contentious — over the years as it looked at scientific data from many companies and experts hired by Vale and the city, to determine the extent and repercussions of the contamination.

It wasn't an easy task and all members, past and present, deserve the thanks of all residents for the work and countless hours they put in at meetings and at home on the issue.

Without them, this city may have never been able to deal with the contamination issue.

And the P.L.C. recently presented the Ministry of Environment with its final report. The P.L.C. report red-flagged several problems with the process involved in determining health risks associated with soil contamination in the city, and made several recommendations to resolve those problems.

The ministry will now look at the report and bring back his own final recommendations in December. At that time, the ministry will provide a "director's letter" to the community, which will include information about soil contamination levels that require intervention. We hope that will be the final step for the P.L.C. end and that residents will finally have some closure on at least one aspect of the contamination issue.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

A simple prayer with a profound message

JEEVA SAM

United Church Mornings Point and Forks Road East

I was one of the shortest prayers I've ever heard anyone offer at our Saturday morning men's Bible study session over the past three years, but it caught my attention.

Perhaps it was my propensity to pray in paragraphs that prompted me to take note of this single-sentence offering to the Almighty. Or it could've been the stark contrast to prayers that are normally laden with requests for oneself and for others. Maybe it was the sincerity simply... yes, be the judge.

A volunteer that quivered with emotion, he said: "Lord, there is a lot I can pray about this morning... but for now, all I want to say is 'I love you' and 'Thank you, Amen!'."

You may have heard elsewhere that there are two of the three most important phrases that could be uttered in marriage by one partner to the other (the third being "I am sorry"). We all have this need to be loved and to be appreciated. Chances are the spouse that is the most vocal about those in which we are able to give and receive both love and appreciation.

Is that not true of our relationship

■ readers'views

A wind farm challenge

There are now at least 60 municipalities in Ontario demanding the provincial government to impose a moratorium on future and farm development until independent investigations are completed that prove beyond doubt that industrial wind turbines do not pose any health risks to anyone in communities living in the vicinity of wind farms. At least two such municipalities are initiating legal action against both wind energy companies and the provincial government.

Here in Wainfleet, a municipality with a council too intimidated and scared to even question either the wind energy companies or the province's Green Energy Act, we have two local companies who can't wait to build Wainfleet's first two wind farms.

IPC Energy (the Loeffen family) have already been awarded a contract by the province to build a wind farm in Wainfleet. Rankin, having lost his bid to be the first, intends to ensure he will be awarded the second wind farm contract

with God as well?

The pages of the Bible contain numerous reminders of a God who repeatedly reassures His children that they are loved. E.g., "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). These words are addressed collectively to the people of Israel, while the following declaration is directed to one individual, Jesus: "You are my Son, whom I love." (Luke 3:22). Believers are also urged to express love and appreciation to God, as in Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength."

The words "I love you" always elicit a response, don't they? Psalm 143 is one example of how the recipients of God's declaration of love reciprocate with their own recitation: "I love you, O LORD, my strength: 'Here is how a traditional hymn does it."

"My Jesus, Love Thee, I know Thou art mine; For Thee all the pleasures of sin I resign; My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour and Friend, I'll ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now."

A more contemporary sort of praise phrases it this way:

"I love you, Jesus and I lift my voice To worship you, O my soul, rejoice! Take joy, my King, in what you hear, May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your

ear."

Similarly the encouragement to "give thanks," i.e. to express appreciation, is found in verses such as this: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good: His mercies endure forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34). Responses abound, such as this one from Psalm 71:—"We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; we tell of your wonderful deeds." Familiar hymns such as "Now thank we all our God," choruses such as "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul" and many others certainly carry this theme to heart.

Perhaps the main reason this prayer caught my attention was because it had captured the essence of worship in two simple phrases. The word "worship" comes from "Worth-ship," which simply means to give thanks. Worship is not a time for "gimme" prayers or a time to "get" something.

It is a time to celebrate and cement our relationship, which the apostle Paul described as that between a bride and a bridegroom. With that being said, let us then to this simply say: "I love you" and "Thank you...amen?"

Perhaps it will not surprise you to know that the church that wed this prayer on the very same day that we and Grace celebrated the 40th anniversary of their marriage.

in Wainfleet.

Neither has a problem with building wind farms in Wainfleet knowing that under the Green Energy Act, their Wainfleet friends and neighbours do not have the right to even express an opinion about whether or not they want wind turbines in their township.

My Wainfleet challenge to both IPC Energy and to Tom Rankin.

You both own properties in Wainfleet and your influence over what happens in Wainfleet, and your ability to make things happen, appears to be beyond question.

I challenge you both to put your money where your collective mouths are.

On each of your projects, site one of your industrial wind turbines at the minimum set back distance from each of your primary private homes in Wainfleet.

This should already be a part of the Loeffen family project if they really believe in wind turbines only being beneficial for the future of the township and their Wainfleet neighbours.

With Rankin's Wainfleet home being where it is, it may be a bit more difficult, but there is enough brush land and agricultural land to site one of his proposed turbines at a minimum set back distance from one of his neighbours with a property not too far from his.

I can't think of any better way to show beyond doubt that whilst both IPC Energy and Rankin Construction should be in the business of making a profit, and I cannot fault them for that, their proposed wind farms are because they believe that what they are doing can only benefit all Wainfleet residents.

And that these wind farms will never negatively affect the health of the community, the value of properties close to wind farms, or in fact, harm the Wainfleet community in any way.

Both IPC Energy and Rankin have the influence to do this so I can't wait to hear they have accepted the Wainfleet challenge.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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■ COLLISION

Charges pending in head-on crash

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Two men involved in a head-on collision in Wainfleet last week remain in hospital in serious but stable condition.

Niagara Regional Police say a 46-year-old St. Catharines man crossed into the oncoming lane with his Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck on River Rd. and slammed into a Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck driven by a 41-year-old Dunnville man.

Following the crash, both men were taken to Welland hospital in serious condition.

NRP Det. Const. Adam Carter said alcohol was a factor in the collision and charges are pending. But he wouldn't say which man would be charged. He said the investigation is continuing.

■ CANAL DAYS HONOUR



RAESHA FORAND Staff Photo
The Canal Days sponsor award is presented to Cogeco and Jack Custers for the local cable television station's ongoing support of the trademark festival.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR NEW OFFICIAL PLAN

The Township of Wainfleet has prepared a new Official Plan which will affect all lands within the Township. Township Council will hold a public meeting at which any interested party may make representation respecting the proposed Official Plan as follows:

Thursday, August 5, 2010

7:00 pm

Council Chambers, Township Offices

19M43 Highway # 3

Wainfleet, Ontario, L0S 1V0

ABOUT THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

The purpose of the Official Plan is to set a long term 20-year vision for the Township, establish goals and objectives to guide future land use changes in the municipality consistent with this vision, and set out specific policies to guide future change while maintaining the desired qualities of the Township. The new Official Plan will replace the current Township Official Plan, as amended, which was originally approved in 1979.

The Official Plan is intended to provide a framework within which Township Council may make decisions regarding land uses, built form, municipal service investments and the protection of key environmental features and functions. It also provides Council with a framework to consider private and public proposals for Zoning Bylaw amendments, site plan approval, building permits, plans of subdivision and land severances.

The new Official Plan was prepared with the assistance of the Township Consultant Sorenson Gravely Lowes Planning Associates and is the product of a multi-step process. Specifically:

-In 2009 "Visioning" Workshops were conducted and background information about the Township collected and compiled into an "Issues and Opportunities Report", which is available on the Township website or at the Township Offices (as below).

-In 2010 the Consultant prepared a "Policy Directions Report" which recommends policy directions for a new Township Official Plan, which policies are intended to address the identified issues, opportunities and options. The "Policy Directions Report" was the subject of public and agency review earlier this year and is available on the Township website or at the Township Offices (as below).

-The Consultant has now prepared a "draft" new Official Plan for the Township which is currently the subject of public and agency review. The "draft" Official Plan is available on the Township website or at the Township Offices (as below).

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENT/INPUT TO THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

The public meeting will allow anyone an opportunity to make representation in respect to the proposed Official Plan directly to Township Council. Representation can be made orally at the meeting or in writing any time prior to the meeting (as below).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING COMMENT/INPUT RESPECTING THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wainfleet before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the "Approving Authority", in this case the Regional Municipality of Niagara, to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wainfleet before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party. If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to Township Clerk at the address below.

HOW TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AND RELATED INFORMATION:

The proposed Official Plan, and related background documentation, is available for review on the Township website (www.township.wainfleet.on.ca) or at the Township Offices (Planning Department) during regular office hours (address below). Questions, information requests or written submissions respecting the proposed Official Plan should be directed to the Manager of Planning by e-mail (planning@township.wainfleet.on.ca) or through the Township offices:

Charles V. Miller
Manager of Planning
Township of Wainfleet
19M43 Highway 3, P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0
(905) 899-3463

Dated at the Township of Wainfleet, Tuesday, July 13, 2010

■ **GOOD TIME:** Local Lions pull off their 80th in a row

Life's a carnival – every summer

There's something about the annual Lions Carnival that has a distinct magic to it.

It's almost as if for a few days each summer, time stands still.

Ingress in town to stay in 1964 and I can honestly say the carnival hasn't changed much since the first one I attended the following summer, in 1965. Don't get me wrong. It's grown some



George Duma
BY GEORGE

for the better and it has evolved but at its heart, it's essentially the same.

And hey, why shouldn't it be? The Lions long ago came up with a formula for success and saw no need to change it. Why would they? The

Lions Carnival is everything a carnival should be.

When you couple that with the fact the local Lions have been at it successfully for 80 years, well, there are many folks around the country who could come here and take lessons on how a well-organized, well-run carnival should function.

During a slow meander around the Killaly St.-Elm St. grounds early last Friday evening, it's easy to drift back

in time. The raffle booths greet visitors to the right of the Killaly St. entrance. There's some really good stuff available.

Further down on the same side is one of the two Lions food booths, selling burgers, hot dogs, sausages, fries, carnival food one needs to fuel the soul.

Next to the food booth, Carole Newman of the local Optimist Club is calling out the numbers in the bingo tent.

So what's an Optimist doing at the Lions Carnival, I ask? Fellow number caller and Optimist Janet Pilon explains other organizations come in and help the Lions with the bingo.



Port Colborne Optimist Club member Carole Newman calls the numbers in the Lions Carnival bingo tent while fellow Optimist and number caller Janet Pilon, left in the red top, gets set for her shift.

"(Members of) city council are here one night, the Knights (of Columbus) are here for a night; we all take a turn. We all help out."

And while the other groups don't get any monetary compensation, the Lions are generous hosts and

appreciative of the help they get.

"They, they feed us," Janet laughs. "They give us meal tickets, drinks, make sure we have water. And it's all for a good cause."

"You have to give something back to the community, don't you?" Indeed, that's what it's all about. That's what the local Lions have been doing since 1922. Port's is one of the oldest clubs in Canada.

The crowds are now arriving and are filling in the Lions Field, normally used for ball games. Folks are smiling; they're here for a good time.

There is much laughter and more than a little screaming as rides with names like the Scrambler and Fire Ball live up to their name.

Around the southern perimeter, the haunted house is a throwback to an era when it really did frighten young people, scared the bejeepers out of them.

see DUMA /A7

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What is the importance of healthy eating for denture wearers?

The relation between significant tooth loss and the ability to chew fresh fruits, vegetables and meats, has a great impact on the nutritional value of one's diet. Toothless or partially edentulous individuals are at a high risk of malnutrition. Edentulous individuals with poor nutrition intake may be at higher risk for a variety of diseases. For example those who consume little vitamin A are at a higher risk for various forms of cancer, heart disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Similarly the dietary deficiencies of vitamin E are associated with various cancers, heart and Parkinson's Disease and low vitamin C and thiamine levels lead to a reduced immune system function, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and nausea, constipation as well as appetite and weight loss. Another ill effect of a low nutrient diet is a loss of muscle mass and strength caused by inadequate intake of protein, which could further increase frailty. An increased intake of fat and cholesterol observed in toothless patients have been associated with obesity, diabetes mellitus, as well as atherosclerosis.

What can I do to prevent any of this happening to me?

Considering the vast implications of a low nutrient diet, it is worth acknowledging that nutritional balance and good health can be significantly improved and restored with the use of a well made denture, and a vitamin supplemented regime planned by your doctor. A well made denture, will allow you to introduce back into your diet all the nutritionally laden foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins and nuts that were avoided when chewing with an ill-fitting, poorly designed denture. Individuals with implant supported dentures, greatly improve their food choices by including more hard to chew foods that are rich in nutrients, therefore greatly improving their health status.

To switch to a more balanced diet may be as easy as having well fitted dentures, that allow for improved chewing and grinding function. The ability to better chew fruits, vegetables, meats and nuts will increase your nutrient intake and may decrease your risk of various disease. For more information see your Denturist.

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■ DUMA

Lions Carnival is an annual rite of summer in Port

FROM PAGE A6

The group of young ladies coming out of the final turn and back into daylight certainly don't look as horrified as I used to get back in the day.

The Ferris wheel has a lineup of young and old waiting for a ride, all of them eager to get in one of the buckets and go up into the sky for a panoramic view of our town.

As the carnival stroll comes full circle, the three booths on the right, with their backs facing Elm St., bring more promise of good eats. There's a huge lineup at the roast beef booth; tonight, however, the special is Friday fish fry for \$8.50 and it looks good.

I head around behind the booths and find the McCormack family busily making the carnival's famous waffles and the Dayboll clan hurriedly baking the equally famous carnival doughnuts. Both are trying to keep up with the demand in front of the booths.

I head back to the front and get in line for doughnuts. I know people that never eat doughnuts any time of the year but carnival time. They really are incredible, even for people who don't have a sweet tooth.

It's an annual rite of summer, the Lions Carnival. And it's an amazing example of what can be accomplished, year-in and year-out, when a bunch of dedicated men and women pull the oars in the same direction.

Here's a mighty roar to the Lions. You've done it again!



George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the Journalism

faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@cogeco.ca

GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photos
The Fire Ball, left, lives up to its name as it hurls riders up into the air and over the loop. At right, the Dayboll family, from left, Paul, Josh and Cathy are busy keeping up with the demand for carnival doughnuts.



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■ **FESTIVAL:** Port Colborne museum takes visitors back in time

A historical retreat from Canal Days crowds

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — During the hustle and bustle of Canal Days, Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum can provide a trip back in time and a shaded oasis for visitors.

Canal Days was founded on the museum grounds 32 years ago and to this day continues to be a successful fundraiser for the King St. attraction.

"It's also the museum's 35th anniversary and I think that's the reason there is less of excitement," museum curator Stephanie Powell Baswick said of the buzz in the air about the upcoming festival.

Typical marine displays, photographs, ships and rail models will be showcased. Visitors can watch rope ladder demonstrations and make their way over the pool where the Great Lakes Model Boat Association's remote controlled boat show takes place.

The Sea Shanties will perform and artisans will be weaving, engraving, blacksmithing, wood carving and selling their wares in the heritage village. Powell Baswick is excited to welcome a First

Nations teepee with dancers, sculpting and crafts. In the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archive building, the Pink Warriors will present a sport card and collectible show.

"When Canal Days started, a car show was part of it and grew to have its own venue. For the 35th anniversary, as a tribute to the museum, cars will be here to be on display."

The museum will feature Canal Days activities on Saturday, July 30, and Sunday, Aug. 1, from noon to 5 p.m. for a \$2 admission and free for members and children under 12. It will be open on Friday, July 29, and Monday, Aug. 2, from noon to 5 p.m., where people can tour the museum's exhibits for free.

"We like to offer a little bit of everything the larger Canal Days scene has including entertainment, food and activities. It's a bit of an oasis from the crowded streets."

It takes about 100 volunteers to run the event, including volunteers who will sell Canal Days T-shirts and those who will dress up and serve Victorian tea in Arabella's air conditioned tea room.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

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Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is preparing for Canal Days, when the grounds will be transformed and will take visitors back in time. Museum staff including graphic designer Stephen Brule and marine heritage development officer Trevor Brown are helping museum curator and director Stephanie Powell Baswick with preparations.

EYE EXAMS

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■ **NEGLIGENCE:** Habitual offenders could be fined

Derelict homes may be red flagged

MARYVANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — City council is hoping to find a way to get homeowners moving.

Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo expressed concern last week over the way the city processes property standards complaints. There should be a method, he said, to "red flag" homes that are frequently called in because the yard is unkempt, with the grass going uncultivated for some time and weeds growing wildly.

Residents "lose faith in the system" and are caused "unnecessary stress and anger" when they call in a complaint that isn't dealt with quickly, he said.

"We need to find a better way to react."

DiBartolomeo said there are "absentee landlords" in areas across the city that do not properly care for their properties.

"We get the same complaints

year after year," he said of a few repeat offenders the city is often fielding calls about.

Chief administrative officer Robert Heil said he believes the city is undercharging for its services. When the city fields a complaint, a public works employee is sent out to cut the grass, sending the invoice to the homeowner, he said.

Mayor Vance Badaway said it would be proactive to red flag repeat offending homes when grass-cutting season arrives, having properties inspected right off the bat.

The city can also look into sub-contracting the work to a local business, he said, with the business then passing on the cost to the property owner.

Ward 3 Coun. Gary Bruno said the city has to work at getting the notices out in a timely manner once a complaint has been made, so the grass isn't left unattended for even longer.

Heil said city staff work hard, even putting in some overtime,

to ensure notices get out as soon as possible.

Habitual offenders don't concern themselves with the property until they get a notice,

he said. "It's cheaper for the city to do it for them to hire someone else."

Heil said staff need to "look within the law" to try and find

a way for habitual offenders to be charged under the Provincial Offences Act.

DiBartolomeo put forth a motion, which was approved

by council, for staff to create a report with potential solutions regarding the issue.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca



Frank
DiBartolomeo

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CANAL SHIPPING

Nuclear waste plan concerns Badawey

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It's news Mayor Vance Badawey hoped to learn from somewhere other than his inbox.

"Quite frankly, to find out through an e-mail is alarming," Badawey said about plans to ship radioactive material through the city.

It was through a Google alert that Badawey was informed of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station's licence request to ship radioactive generators through the Welland Canal.

The massive steel steam generators would make their way from Lake Huron, through the canal and the rest of the St. Lawrence Seaway to a recycling plant in Sweden.

A total 1,760 tonnes of steel containing low levels of radiation are expected to be shipped to the Swedish plant, which is causing concerns on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, Badawey said.

He said he's unhappy with the lack of transparency that's taken place, adding the "mayor should not find out from the media" about such an issue.

City staff are currently doing their "due diligence" to collect as much information on the issue as possible, learning about what the product is and the potential effects, he said.

Standing next to one of the 100-tonne generators for a few hours, Badawey said, is estimated to expose a person to the same amount of radiation as a chest X-ray. A resolution

from environmental groups and local politicians has begun circulating, calling for the shipping plan to be halted.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will ultimately decide whether the materials will gain approval to be shipped.

Similar products do go through the St. Lawrence Seaway on occasion, Badawey

said, but the concern lies in the municipality not being informed about the cargo.

"I'm very disturbed there was no heads-up."

The city needs to be aware of protocol regarding such practices, he said, and would like to have its emergency services on hand as a precaution as the material is ferried through Port Colborne.



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■ **FIREFIGHTING:** Training sessions taking place at Port Colborne industrial sites

A ray of light in the darkness

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "Mayday, mayday, mayday. Firefighter ... lost, headed to Bravo side," said a voice over a crackling fire service radio.

As quickly as the voice faded from the radio, Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighters sprung into action, assembling a Rapid Intervention Team to head inside a large hot, dark warehouse to look for their downed colleague.

Even before that team was part way into the building, a second mayday call came in from another downed firefighter in the same warehouse. A second Rapid Intervention Team was dispatched to find that firefighter.

Both firefighters were actually fine. And the warehouse they were in — Fontaine's Transport on Elm St. — was just the site of the latest training exercise for the city's professional and volunteer firefighters.

Capt. Wayne Benner Jr. said the training being carried out was called "large area search technique" developed in the U.S. after a number of firefighter deaths.

"In the past 15 years, 20 firefighters have been lost in large area fires," said Benner.

Nine of those firefighters were killed in a sofa store in Charleston, S.C., and six in a large warehouse in Worcester, Mass.

Benner said despite the city's relatively small size,



Above, Capt. Wayne Benner Jr., left, watches as a firefighter is blindfolded before practising "large area search techniques" during a training session for Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services professional and volunteer firefighters. At right, Benner watches as a Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services volunteer firefighter finds a door during the training exercise.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

there are large size warehouses and industries — such as Vale (Inco), Casco, Jungbunzlauer, ADM Milling and Goderich Elevators — where a firefighter could easily become disoriented and lost. Training to search for downed colleagues is important.

During Tuesday night's training, firefighters were blindfolded, spun around and then told to find their way out of the warehouse, which was mainly empty.

"Ninety per cent of the guys won't be able to find their way out," Benner said, despite having seen the warehouse and what was in it before

being blindfolded.

As in a real fire, each side of the warehouse was assigned a section, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Firefighters had to call out which way they were headed over the radio so rescue teams would know where to start a search.

Benner watched as one firefighter felt for cracks in the concrete floor and used those to find his way out. He said using the cracks in the concrete floor was a great idea, and it wasn't something mentioned in a briefing before the training started.

"Those cracks will lead you to a wall and maybe a way

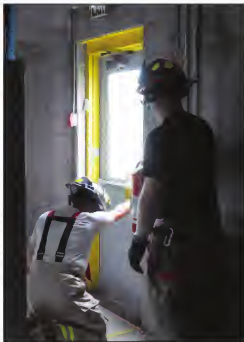
out."

One firefighter in the training headed one way in the warehouse and got himself completely turned around, heading in the opposite direction.

"Firefighters are pretty stubborn and don't like to ask for help, but they have to ask for help," said Benner.

"They have to set out their PASS (Personal Alert Safety System) alarm to let other firefighters know they're in trouble and they have to call a mayday."

While firefighters used the Rapid Intervention Teams to conduct searches, they also used a method where three



firefighters enter a building on a rope line, with the rope coming out of a bag. The rope line has knots every 20 feet (six metres) so firefighters know how far in a building they've gone. On the line is a lead firefighter with two others behind who are clipped on to the rope.

The two firefighters tied off on the rope stretch out behind the lead firefighter to conduct searches off of the main line, but they never unclip from that line. The leader firefighter also has a thermal camera to help in the search.

Firefighters spent about two hours practising getting

themselves out of the building and the various rescue techniques. Benner said the fire service appreciated the use of the warehouse.

"We called Larry (Fontaine) and asked if we could use the building and he was all for it."

Benner said people and businesses in the community have been very good to the fire service, allowing the use of various facilities over the years for training.

The day before, firefighters practised at ADM Milling, lowering a victim to the ground from several stories up.

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■ **HISTORY:** Stone to become monument at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

Grist mill relic monumental for 1812 bicentennial

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — While war raged across most of Niagara in 1812, Port Colborne — known as Sugarloaf Settlement at the time — was left relatively unscathed.

One part of the settlement that survived three attacks by American renegades was Christian Zavitz's Grist Mill, said both Brian Heaslip, chair of Port Colborne-Wainfleet War of 1812 bicentennial committee, and local historian Don Anger.

The mill that grew to be among the world's largest flour milling industries by the mid-20th century was the only one left standing at the end of the War of 1812.

All other mills across Niagara were destroyed during the war to prevent British forces and Canadian militia from having a food supply.

War didn't destroy Zavitz's mill, built in 1780 on the northeast side of the Eagle Marsh Drain, but time took its toll and sometime around 1834 it was closed.

While the mill is long gone there are two remaining pieces — mill stones used to grind grain.

One of the stones sits on



DAVE JOHNSON Staff photo
The stone from Christian Zavitz's grist mill, reputed to be the only mill in Niagara to survive the War of 1812 unscathed.

the grounds of Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum. The other, after 85 years of sitting in the same location, was recently to the shop floor of Glenmount Memorials for refurbishing.

It had been sitting on Sugarloaf St. since about 1935, when it was placed on land, vacant at the time, but now home to Newport Centre, in honour of Christian Zavitz, who originally came from Pennsylvania, for his role in the development of Niagara.

Removing the stone wasn't

easy. A boom-crane truck from HGH Granite, of Dundas, had a hard time removing the mill stone and its concrete base from the soil. The stone had to be removed from its mount and a larger crane was brought in to remove the base itself.

Heaslip said the bicentennial committee was looking for a suitable project for the War of 1812 for the area and thought the mill stone would be a worthy effort. "It seemed to lend itself well to the theme of the bicentennial."

The bicentennial will celebrate in 2010 200 years of peace, co-operation and friendship between Canada and the U.S.

Heaslip said the mill stone will have a new mount, with granite base and stand, installed by Glenmount, and it will be placed at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in late 2011 or early 2012.

"We went to Glenmount and asked if they could do up a proposal for us and they came back with an exceptionally good package," he said.

The committee thought the park was a good location for the mill stone to be placed so that everyone can see it. It will be placed on the small hill near the Flecken Area entrance to the park. A dedication cere-

mony will be held in June 2012.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Ken McArthur, left, of HGH Granite in Dundas, and Tim Sturman, of Glenmount Memorials, work out how to lift the mill stone, from the Zavitz Grist Mill. The stone will be refurbished by Glenmount for the Port Colborne-Wainfleet War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee and will be reinstalled at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in late 2011 or early 2012.



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■ **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Swans capture victory in Port Colborne

Submitted photo

This photo taken by John Ballin called Swans on the Bay has won him Port Colborne's spring photography contest. Ballin wins a \$100 gift certificate from Staples Business Express.

Focused on the lakeside

JOHN VESSOYAN
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — An artistic image of swans has given John Ballin a victory in Port Colborne's spring photography contest.

The photograph, called *Swans on the Bay*, shows four swans lined perfectly in formation with the city's light house in the background.

Ballin's photo was one of 70 entries in the contest. Ballin wins a \$100 gift certificate for Staples Business Express in Port Colborne.

Photographs in this contest were judged on originality, overall impact, artistic merit and the photographer's ability to portray the city of Port Colborne as an attractive tourist destination.

"Our photography contests have been designed to highlight the wide range of activities and sights in Port Colborne," said Stephen Thompson, director of economic development, tourism and marketing. "We are delighted to showcase many of the best photos in marketing materials promoting our city."

There is another photo contest in Port Colborne which

runs now until Sept. 20. The contest is open to people of all ages and abilities. A maximum of five photos can be submitted by one person and there is no entry fee for the contest.

For complete contest rules, visit www.portcolborne.ca or call marketing and tourism co-ordinator Erin Pozzebon at 905-634-1668 ext. 234.

jvessoyan@wellandtribune.ca

■ **ELECTION:** Port councillor wants 'fair shake'

Barrick makes play for regional seat

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — David Barrick is hoping to tackle the big issues.

The Ward 1 councillor is hoping to take his political career to the next level, running for Port Colborne's seat at Niagara regional council in the upcoming October election.

"I prefer the bigger issues," Barrick, 31, said last week after announcing his candidacy.

During his four years in the Port's city council chambers, he worked to spearhead a policy to ensure the accountability and transparency of the city's operations and senior management.

Barrick said he has an "interest and passion" for politics and feels he'll be able to serve a greater capacity of residents from the regional level.

While he's appreciative of the support he's received from the Ward 1 residents, Barrick said he looks forward to bringing the voice of all Port Colborne residents to regional council.

"I plan on bringing Port Colborne's voice to the region, not the region's voice to Port Colborne."

If elected, he plans to make it a priority to get Port Colborne's "fair shake" of the region's more than \$800-million budget, while working toward getting more value for

taxpayer dollars.

Barrick said he'd like more work done to stimulate job growth by encouraging people and businesses to relocate to Niagara, and to help existing small- and medium-sized businesses to become more competitive.

He said he has a good understanding of the regional



David Barrick

political structure, and over the past four years has sat on the Niagara Region transportation strategy steering committee.

"I would like to continue to ensure Port Colborne residents have the ability to access regional transportation at a cost that is affordable," he said.

Barrick received his honours BA in political science from Brock University.

He is former president of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and a recipient of the Top 40 Under 40 Business Achievement Award in Niagara.

Barrick lives in Port Colborne with his spouse, Yakira, and their two children, Kyla, 5, and Caden, 3.

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■ **EXPANSION:** \$1-million-plus project in the wings

Port Cares awaits zoning for expansion

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The hall is rolling on Port Care's expansion.

A public hearing was held last week regarding a zoning bylaw amendment needed for the agency's expansion project to move forward at

its Nickel St. centre.

The more than \$1-million expansion will nearly double the size of the facility, allowing Port Cares the

space to offer residents a food bank, soup kitchen, employment resources and other assistance at one

site.

"The project is a substantial investment in the neighbourhood," said Brian

Lambie, who spoke at the meeting on behalf of the applicant.

SEE PORT CARES I A16

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■ PORT CARES

■ SPENDING: Public works envisions \$7M shortfall

Capital campaign launched

FROM PAGE A15

Port Cares executive director Lynda Reinhardt said the Nickel St. centre has experienced growing numbers of clients and is in need of more space to serve the people of Port Colborne.

Last August, Port Cares applied for infrastructure stimulus funding, which it was awarded in November. The agency received

\$670,000 from the federal and provincial governments, she said, and has recently launched a capital campaign to help raise the remaining funds.

For more information on the campaign, contact Port Cares at 905-834-3629.

City council will receive a report at an upcoming meeting with staff's recommendations on the zoning bylaw amendment.

Budget guidance recommended for Region

MATTHEW VAN DONGEN
QM Agency

THOROLD—There may not be a redo of last month's failed regional debate over budget guidance, a meeting scuttled by poor councillor attendance.

A regional finance committee recommended budget guidance for staff Wednesday that includes a 1.4% cap on departmental spending

increases next year.

A full committee-of-the-whole meeting was scheduled in June to debate the proposed cap and other operating budget goals, but not enough councillors showed up to legally begin the session.

That scrubbed meeting comes several months after Regional Chair Peter Pettignton scolded councillors for poor attendance at two other failed debates in

2009.

The departmental spending cap was suggested by regional finance gurus as a way to try to hold the line on property taxes next year. Some departmental directors have already said the cap could mean service cuts—

public works, for example, is estimating a \$7-million shortfall. Budget guidance is meant to give regional staff a working goal but isn't binding on

council, which will likely vote on final operating budget decisions late in the fall or early next year.

But some councillors didn't support guiding staff the budgeting go-ahead with more debate.

"I think given these scenarios, what we set as budget direction for staff is probably deserving of more debate," said St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms.



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■ TIGER-CATS KID CAPTAIN



BERND FRANKS Staff photo

Thirteen-year-old Aaron Blake of Port Colborne took part in the coin toss for the July 16 CFL game in Hamilton between the Tiger-Cats and the visiting Winnipeg Blue Bombers. He was selected a Scotiabank Kid Captain after winning an online contest.

■ AMAZING RACE FOR HEALTH



Brigades Community Health Centre health promoter Lori Kainsmith stands with a question wheel, one of the many activities along the way for the Amazing Race For Health. Also shown are health promoter Zoe Walters and Rita Smith of YouthUth. They are teaming up with the mayor's youth advisory council to put on Rock in the Park, a full afternoon and evening of bands at H. H. Kroll Lakeview Park, and an Amazing Race for Health throughout the Port Colborne downtown core on Saturday, July 24.

KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

NOTES

A910

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CENTURY OF FAMILY



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The Johnson family celebrated its 100th reunion last Saturday in Wellandport. About 100 family members attended the event, including, front row, from left, the oldest members, Doris Topolinsky, 85, and Harry Dekkers, 87, back row, reunion secretary Lynn Tremblay holding 18-month-old Joseph Boychuk-Malibouf, reunion president Denis Tremblay holding three-month-old Alexandra Johnson and family historian Roy Johnson. The Johnsons were Loyalists and relatives have traced their history back to the 1700s.

HONOURS



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

During a Canal Days event launch, awards were given to local residents and businesses for their continuous service to the city's signature festivals. Fire prevention officer Mike Bendia was honoured for his long-term commitment and was awarded a plaque by Mayor Vance Badaway.